

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-14 EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /164 W

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P 101702Z MAY 74

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH PRIORITY 0193

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

UNCLAS JEC PARIS 11409

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: VN,PINT, VS

SUBJECT: PRG DEL PRESS CONFERENCE, MAY 10, 1974

1. SUMMARY. PRG PRESS SPOKESMAN DUONG DINH THAO HELD AN IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 10. HIS APPARENT PURPOSE WAS TO ANNOUNCE THE PRGDEL TPJMC DECISION TO BOYCOTT SESSIONS AS A GESTURE OF PROTEST (REPORTED SAIGON 6122). USING THE TWIN THEMES OF US "INTERVENTIONISM" AND GVN "SYSTEMATIC OBSTRUCTIONISM", THAO REITERATED WELL-KNOWN PRG DEMANDS.

2. CONCERNING THE US, THAO ALLEGED THAT A REVIVAL OF US "NEOCOLONIALISM" WAS TAKING PLACE THROUGH US PROVISION OF MILITARY AID AND ADVISORY ASSISTANCE. HE ALLEGED FURTHER THAT DIRECT US AIR SUPPORT OF AN ARVN OPERATION IN THE DELTA OCCURRED ON MAY 2, INDICATING LATER THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE AIR AMERICA FLIGHT EVACUATING THE WOUNDED. THAO ALSO ALLEGED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD PERPETUATED THE VIETNAMIZATION POLICY OF THE PRESIDENT, THUS NO FUNDAMENTAL REORIENTATION OF US POLICY TOWARDS VN HAD COME ABOUT DESPITE ASSURANCES TO THE CONGRESS THAT THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. AS HE HAD DONE PREVIOUSLY THAO ATTACKED THE SECRETARY'S MARCH

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26 STATEMENT ON US COMMITMENT TO THE GVN.

3. AS FOR THE GVN, THAO ALLEGED THAT IT WAS ENGAGED IN A SARDONIC CAMPAIGN TO "INTOXICATE PUBLIC OPINION", IN PART BY CREATING INCIDENTS SUCH AS THOSE AT THE CAI LAY AND SONG PHU SCHOOLS, IN ORDER TO BLACKEN THE PRG. CLAIMING THAT THE GVN HAD SABOTAGED THE LA CELLE ST. CLOUD BILATERALS AT US DIRECTION, THAO SAID THAT THE PRG HOPED FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS. FOR THAT REASON NGUYEN VAN HIEU AND THE REST OF THE PRGDEL WOULD REMAIN AT PARIS "FOR THE TIME BEING". SIMILARLY, THE PRGDEL, TPJMC WOULD ALSO REMAIN AT SAIGON TO AWAIT FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS, I.E. GVN POLICY CHANGES. WILLIAMS

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